

My day at nursery

When children arrive at nursery, they wait with their family for the gate or door to open. Sometimes they feel a bit nervous, but once the adults have said hello to them and their family, they feel happy and safe.

A familiar grown-up takes the babies from their parent or carer, and the older children say goodbye to their family, knowing they will see them later. If they cry, they are distracted by lovely toys once inside, and the grown-ups register them. The older children find their name card which they add to their key group photograph, and put their bag and coat on the peg with their photo.

Friends arrive so they can all play together, either inside or in the garden. They have lots to do including waterplay and other sensory activities. The grown-ups always support the babies and, if they are crawling, cruising or walking, they make sure they are doing these things as safely as possible, giving them time to explore on their own too.

The older children like to decide what to do by themselves, but if they do not know what to do, the adults will always help them. If they are really interested in something, adults will let them explore it so that they can learn more about it.

During the morning, snack is prepared for the babies and they sit and eat socially. Food is cut up so that they can eat safely and they are always observed by a grown-up. When the snack bar is open, the older children wash their hands and an adult supports them to choose what to have. They can have milk or water and a snack of fruit and vegetables.

The babies' nappies are changed or checked during the morning session. Some of the younger children may need a morning sleep and are taken to a calm space where their cots are. Sheets and blankets are changed regularly and classical music is played quietly to help them relax. Sleep checks are recorded every 10 minutes.





At some point in the morning the children gather for group time with their friends and sing songs, read a story or play a game with their Key Person. Their Key Person knows the things that they like to do, the way they like to do them and how best to support them. At the end of the morning, the children help to put away the things they have been playing with. They always know where to find the things they need.

At lunchtime some children go home, but the older children who stay go to the toilet and wash their hands while the babies have their hands washed for them. Every table has an adult sitting with them supporting the babies with their feeding and chatting with all the children as they eat.

After lunch, the babies have their face washed before having their nappy changed or checked, ready for the afternoon. More friends arrive after lunch and again children can choose where to play. If they need extra help with anything, an adult may help them in a smaller group.

For some of the babies and younger children, it may be time for sleep. A familiar grown-up settles children into their cot or onto their mattress and supports them to fall asleep. Calm music is played and the lights are lowered. Voices are kept low. Children may have a bottle before their sleep. If not sleeping, they join the other children and play all afternoon with lots of lovely things, either inside or outside.

Before going home, the children help to put things back and then they may have group time again where they talk about what they have been doing in nursery and what they have learnt.

After group time, the older children collect any letters and pictures that they need to take home along with their coat and bag. They like to be able to do these things themselves. They put things in their Learning Journey that they want to keep at nursery. They can look at it anytime and like to show it to the person who picks them up from nursery. The children all say goodbye to their friends and Key Person and go outside, ready to go home.

The grown-ups hand the babies' carer their coat and bag and pass on any messages. Some children might stay for tea club.